



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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RE: HB 3143

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is Oregon's largest state-centric hunter conservation organization, representing over 12,000 sportsmen and women throughout 26 chapters in the state. Our mission is 'to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage' and we have a strong history of advocating for science-based wildlife management.

OHA supports the protection and improvement of wildlife habitat on public lands and, wherever possible and practicable, on private lands. The Landowners Living with Beavers Grant Program put forth in HB 3143 allows for such improvements on private land, specific to beavers.

Beavers can be an important ecological helper on the landscape. Depending on the landscape they inhabit, they may be either a benefit or a detriment, depending on the landowner, crop impacts, and other factors. In locations where landowners seek to maintain and improve beaver habitat, we support the opportunity for grants to assist them in mitigating any non-desired effects.

We support the utilization of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) as the mechanism for the grant program. The OCRF has established a long track record of administering grant funding for wildlife, habitat, and recreational projects.

Thank you for your time,
Amy Patrick
Policy Director, Oregon Hunters Association